



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

March 2, 2011

7:30 p.m.

City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Louisa Ward, and Justin Wilson

Staff Present: Mark Jinks - CMO, Rich Baier - T&ES, Karen Callahan - T&ES, Jeff Farner - P&Z, Sandra Marks - T&ES, Gabriel Ortiz - T&ES, Jim Maslanka - T&ES, Brad Putzier - DASH, Carrie Sanders - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Michael Stewart - OMB, Steve Kaii-Ziegler - P&Z

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

1. February 2, 2011 Minutes

Chair Posey asked if there were any changes to be made to the February minutes. There being no changes, approval was moved and seconded. The February minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES staff, Jim Maslanka, reported that City Council approved the CMAQ-RSTP plan for FY2013-FY2017; received a briefing on the TDM program; and was presented the FY2012 budget at the February 8 Council meeting. No word has been received yet from the Commonwealth Transportation Board regarding Alexandria's request to reprogram funds. The Transportation Planning Board received reports related to WMATA Governance from the Riders' Advisory Council, Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia government officials. WMATA's General Manager has proposed a budget that calls for \$72.4 million of additional funding through a slate of alternatives including increased subsidies from the jurisdictions with a final adoption of the budget in June 2011. WMATA has established their governance committee that will meet until May 2011. The Commission noted that any WMATA budget issues that would affect the City of Alexandria should be brought to the Commission for their comment.

3. Complete Streets

The Transportation Subcommittee on Complete Streets met in January and revised the Complete Streets resolution. The Subcommittee proposed a six month reporting requirement on instances where discretion was exercised providing relief from any elements of the policy and where capital, maintenance; small area plan and development projects were implemented. Also added to the resolution is a recommendation that a Complete Streets review be reflected in all staff reports for small area plan and development projects. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the revised resolution and forward it to City Council for their approval subject to the change in No.7 from “annual reporting” to “reporting every 2 years” and the additional language added to No. 8 to “bring back for review and reenactment in 2 years”. The revised resolution was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. RSTP/CMAQ Plan

Jim Maslanka quantified RSTP/CMAQ projects funding and the process of how they are approved and distributed. He provided the list of City Council approved RSTP/CMAQ projects recommended by the Transportation Commission and approved by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is expected to adopt this program of projects as part of its Six-Year Plan in May, 2011.

5. Long Range TDM Plan

The plan provides long-term planning, goals, strategies, performance management and budgeting guidance for the operation of the City’s TDM plan. Gabe Ortiz, T&ES staff elaborated on the City’s TDM marketing efforts and programs to increase transit use and other alternatives that could reduce SOV travel. A motion was made to forward to City Council for its approval, staff’s program recommendations and opportunities identified by the City’s Long Range TDM plan. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

6. Funding for Priority Transportation Projects

At the February meeting, the Commission approved a recommendation that the City Manager include in his budget, the draft list of Priority Transportation projects to be funded by a potential Add-On Tax. The project list was revised after receiving input from the Commissioners, Council, Planning Commission and community outreach feedback. The motion to adopt a resolution that endorses the use of an Add-On Tax for funding high priority transportation projects in the 2012 City budget was made, seconded and approved.

7. Staff Updates

Potomac Yard Metro Station – Two public scoping meetings were held on February 11, 2011 with input from City Staff, Federal Transit Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the National Park Service. The public comment period is open until March 15, 2011.

Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study – The overall project is preliminary anticipated to be completed by late 2011. The Van Dorn/Beauregard Corridor C portion is anticipated to be completed by early summer 2011. A workshop was held with the consultant on February 10, 2011. As a result of the workshop, 3 additional alternatives were identified. A preliminary preferred alternative for Corridor C is expected to be chosen by April 2011.

BRAC-133 – The Transportation Research Board (TRB) released their report on “Federal Funding of Transportation Improvements in BRAC Cases”. The report supports DOD funding of road improvements and transit outside the boundaries of BRAC locations and encourages a more cooperative relationship between DOD and local governments in assessing off-location transportation impacts of BRAC facilities. The TRB also recommended changes that will allow expenditure of funds in more urban settings that could free up funding for the short and mid-term road improvements near the BRAC facility in the City. VDOT also announced an updated plan for transportation improvements within the I-95/I-395 Seminary Road corridor which includes constructing a single lane reversible ramp to connect to the existing HOV lanes on I-395 to Seminary Road.

8. Commission Updates

Commissioner Fossum made a motion for the Transportation Commission to refer to the Commercial Real Estate Tax as the “Add-on Tax”. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Chair Posey announced Commissioners Mitchell and Ward were selected to be the Commission’s Subcommittee on Long Range Plan Updates.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:15 pm, seconded and unanimously accepted.